

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY OSD:AMB. KOMER:MEM
APPROVED BY EUR:JEGOODBY
OASD/ISA:JSIENA
EUR/CE:NLAUDERDALE
EUR/NE:MR. WOOLFLEY
EUR/RPM:JAFROEBE,JR.

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TO AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE
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INFO USMISSION USNATO PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 134104

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS:NATO, MPOL, UK, GW

SUBJECT: NATO SUMMIT - ARMAMENTS COOPERATION AND THE
WEAPONS FAMILY CONCEPT

REFS: A. STATE 123852 DTG 160059Z MAY 78; B. STATE 123855
DTG 160101Z MAY 78

PLEASE DELIVER FOLLOWING MESSAGE TO MICHAEL QUINLAN
IN MOD UK AND MG ALTENBURG IN MOD BONN FROM KOMER.

BEGIN TEXT.

WHEN SECRETARY BROWN RAISED WITH DEFENSE MINISTER
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BOURGES THE IDEA OF A BRIEF FOUR-NATION ANNOUNCEMENT
ON THE WEAPONS FAMILIES PACKAGES ALONG THE AGREED LINES,
BOURGES WAS DISPOSED TO JOIN IN, AND PROMISED TO NOTIFY
SECDEF WITHIN A DAY OR TWO. SINCE WE HAVE NOT HEARD
FROM HIM, HOWEVER, POLITICAL COMPLICATIONS MAY HAVE
ARISEN. WE HAVE QUERIED PARIS.

EVEN IF THE FRENCH CAN'T JOIN, WE PROPOSE TO PROCEED
WITH A THREE-POWER ANNOUNCEMENT, AS SECDEF WROTE TO AND
DISCUSSED WITH MINISTERS MULLEY AND APEL. THE WORDING

WOULD BE THE SAME AS IN THE MULLEY-BROWN-APEL LETTERS,
WHICH I RECAPITULATE BELOW:

"THE UK, FRG, US (AND FRANCE) HAVE REACHED AGREEMENT
TO PURSUE URGENTLY THE CONCEPT OF ESTABLISHING PACKAGES
OF WEAPONS IN WHICH THERE WOULD BE A RATIONAL DIVISION
OF DEVELOPMENT RESPONSIBILITY BETWEEN ALLIES IN ORDER
TO REDUCE THE EXTENT OF DUPLICATIVE DEVELOPMENT WITHIN
THE ALLIANCE. TO BEGIN WITH, THEY ARE CONSIDERING THE
POSSIBILITIES IN THE FIELDS OF (1) AIR-TO-GROUND
MUNITIONS; (2) ANTI-SURFACE SHIPPING MISSILES; (3) AIR-
TO-AIR MISSILES; AND (4) ANTI-TANK GUIDED MISSILES.
THEY (ARE ALREADY DISCUSSING THIS WITH FRANCE AND)
INVITE OTHER ALLIES TO PARTICIPATE AS APPROPRIATE."

WE PROPOSE TO MENTION THIS APPROVINGLY TO OTHER HEADS
OF GOVERNMENT DURING THE WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON SUMMIT
DISCUSSION OF ARMAMENTS COLLABORATION. WE WOULD THEN
JOINTLY MAKE THE ABOVE ANNOUNCEMENT AVAILABLE AFTER
THE SUMMIT, OF COURSE SEPARATE FROM THE COMMUNIQUE.

WE ARE PROCEEDING ON THIS BASIS. IF THERE ARE ANY
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LAST-MINUTE PROBLEMS ON WHICH YOU DON'T HAVE TIME TO
GET ME A MESSAGE OR PHONE ME, OUR PRINCIPALS CAN
DISCUSS IT ON TUESDAY WHILE THEY ARE TOGETHER. END TEXT.

CHRISTOPHER

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NNN

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